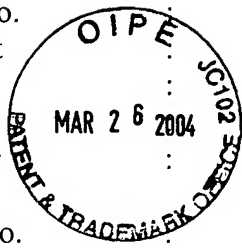


Appln. No. 10/706,177
Applicant Bou-Ghannam, *et al.*
Filed November 12, 2003
TC/A.U. 2143
Examiner Unassigned

Confirmation No. 6117

Docket No. BOC9-2003-0046 (417)



TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please find enclosed the following for filing:

- X Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO/SB/08A with references;
- X Please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0951; and
- X Other: (1) Postcard.

This Transmittal Letter is submitted in duplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3/23/04

Kevin T. Cuenot

Gregory A. Nelson, Reg. No. 30,577
Kevin T. Cuenot, Reg. No. 46,283
Brian K. Buchheit, Reg. No. 52,667
AKERMAN SENTERFITT
P. O. Box 3188
West Palm Beach, FL 33402-3188
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{WP173384;1}

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

Date 3/23/04

Kevin T. Cuenot Reg. No. 46,283
Kevin T. Cuenot

Appln. No. 10/706,177
Applicant : Bou-Ghannam, *et al.*
Filed : November 12, 2003
TC/A.U. 2143
Examiner : Unassigned



Confirmation No. 6117

Docket No. : BOC9-2003-0046 (417)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application. This information disclosure statement is filed in accordance with the partial waiver of the submission requirement under 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(2)(i).

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (1) no later than three months from the application's filing date, or (2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits and, therefore, no certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that such documents constitute prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not

{WP173384;1}

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

Date

3/23/04

Kevin T. Cuenot

Kevin T. Cuenot

Reg. No. 46,283

waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove the listed documents as competent references against the claims of the present application.

Applicants respectfully request that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08A be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3/23/04

Kevin T. Cuenot
Gregory A. Nelson, Reg. No. 30,577
Kevin T. Cuenot, Reg. No. 46,283
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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1

of 1

Complete if Known

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|------------------------|----------------------|
| Application Number | 10/706,177 |
| Filing Date | November 12, 2003 |
| First Named Inventor | Bou-Ghannam, et al. |
| Art Unit | 2143 |
| Examiner Name | Unassigned |
| Attorney Docket Number | BOC9-2003-0046 (417) |

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| | | Country Code ³ *Number ⁴ *Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
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Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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